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# "So Many Things to Buy to Make Us Happy"

Mildred Loomis

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# "So Many Things To Buy To Make Us Happy"

A reader reports the ways his generous income slips away: "A new car, college for the kids, the mortgage on the house—and so many things to buy to make us happy."

His situation is typical, and we deceive ourselves if we assume that many who endorse *A Decentralist Code* (see the May issue of *The Green Revolution*) do not share in it.

Why is this? What causes this exaggerated need for things over and beyond adequate survival?

Most people are aware of frustration, an emptiness, a restlessness. We believe this will be assuaged in buying what advertisers display or what the neighbors have. So we buy; the neighbors buy more; and we must buy more too. A seemingly endless cycle, for the inner need is not satisfied.

Psychologists say that the real source of this uneasiness is a dissatisfaction with our *selves*. An honest look confirms this. We doubt our worth, our adequacy as a person; we find it difficult to relate easily and warmly with others.

A new book *Normal Neurosis*,\* explains and develops this concept unusually well. Every person has three basic emotional (self) needs. First he needs to know himself as he really is. This is difficult. For from babyhood we have probably been living out the standards and expectations of someone other than ourselves — Mother, Father, Teacher, Neighbors. So most of us do not, as adults, know what *we* really are; what we *really* want; what we are really *capable of*. All our standards of reference are outside us. In not letting us as children live out our own lives, in not letting us make choices and take their consequences, adults fail us. As perceptive Dr. J. C. Moloney phrased it at a School of Living session, "A child does not begin to want things until he has given up on people."

Authors Gail and Snell Putney clearly define and elaborate universal self needs in *Normal Neurosis*. They show why it is that our self-doubt, lack of real self-acceptance is cause for the "mess we are in": the conformism, the withdrawal from people, the aggressiveness, the need to have and possess things in affluence. Moreover, they show how to grow out of this — how to develop an adequate self-image. It will serve well as a daily companion.

\**Normal Neurosis* by Gail and Snell Putney (Harpers, 1964) is \$4 from School of Living. It will be the basis for our daily session on Communication and Human Relations at the July 3-11 Workshop at Old Mill.

## College Students Are Interested

Steve Frankhouser is a fourth year student at Ohio State University, and says he doesn't like the society "which education is trying to push him into." At different times he chose being a rebel, a beat and a complete non-conformist. Then he met Sue Ellen Williams, with whom he began talking about the problem of living a decent life as an individual. During this time he wrote the poem, "My Wedding Song," printed below.

Sue remembered that her uncle, Woodrow Williams, had told her about a magazine *A Way Out*, and Lane's End Homestead at Brookville, Ohio. They found copies of this magazine in the university library, which led to reading Ralph Borsodi's books. They provided the young couple fresh hope of finding a wonderful way to live independent of the "dark age" which seems to be

overcoming a majority of people "caught in the machine."

### Plans for the Future

Recently Steve and Sue expressed their interest in more education for living. In the next three years as they work to repay the debts they incurred to "finish school and get a good start in life" they want to study School of Living concept of education and homesteading. They also hope to introduce as many people as possible to this alternative.

They have read *Go Ahead and Live!* and are reading it with some of their friends. "Isn't it amazing," they asked, "how few young couples ever think about their life problems, but just follow along in the general trend?" They want to visit Lane's End

## My Wedding Song

By Steve Frankhouser

I have built for you, my love,  
The house, from stone I quarried  
With my hands, torn from  
The mountain at your doorstep.  
Roof-beams from the redwood  
Giants I have hewn.  
At your rear door a spring flows  
Sparkling cool, the water as  
Clear and blue as your eyes.  
A meadow lies at your feet.  
Soft grasses and fragrant clovers  
For you to walk upon.  
The orchard of plum and apple  
And sour cherries,  
Fields have I plowed and sown  
With barley, maize and wheat.  
To the south in a little forest  
Flows a brook where the otters  
play,  
Trout flee the shadows  
And the small birds of the woods  
Sing all day,  
Eating the sweet berries.  
Here we walk, my love,  
And here we lie,  
Here we are married,  
And here I give to you, my love,

The house,  
The spring, the fields, my love  
And my child.  
Here we walked later and found  
The new-budding leaves,  
The tiny nests of the wood-birds  
songs,  
Here we built the house of our  
son  
From the mountain and forest,  
Roof-beam of red-wood, walls of  
stone.  
My son's son you bathed here,  
I told him of the quiet play  
Of the forest dwellers, I gave him  
The world of ideas from books,  
And romance of songs.  
Here he brought his bride,  
And here on the hill beside the  
Twisted pine I and my son covered  
Your still-warm body.  
Here an old man sits  
And dreams the old-man dreams  
Of love for you, my young love  
Whom I married by the brook  
In the warmth of the sun.

## Letters to the Editor

### Three H Suggests Course

To the Editor:

We are getting replies from our ad, and appreciate the account you gave in April *Green Revolution* of Three H Institute. When your new Center is well enough advanced, would it be of interest to your members to conduct a special Three H Planned course for School of Living members on a closed-group, reduced fee? We would need basic expenses paid, and may be able to contribute much to the Center in that way.—W. J. Arnet, director, Three H Institute, 10 Eglinton Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada

### Teacher to Homestead

To the Editor:

We have greatly appreciated our year's membership in School of Living and its publications, especially *Go Ahead and Live!* We found that readable, enjoyable, stimulating and thought-provoking and would recommend it for persons of any age. We are buying 10 acres, and will move as soon as we sell our town property. We have high hopes for our "homestead."—L. M. Loxley, West Milton, Ohio (a high school teacher)

### Letter Brings 53 Replies

To the Editor:

Since you printed my letter offering plumbing help (November, 1964), I have received and answered 53 letters from all over the map. A few have plumbing problems. Most want to know about homes down here in the Virgin Islands. Have to tell them all, No. The climate is too dry for much gardening, and native citizens steal anything that matures in anyone's garden or on trees. They are mostly professional relief clients, and the government bureaucrats make it so unpleasant for white people who need to work for a living, it does not pay. Am Cherokee myself, so have no racial bias, but am fed up with these islands, and plan to leave in a few months.—O. R. Franklin, Fredericksted, St. Croix, V. I.

### Home Production For Appalachia

To the Editor:

I wish we in School of Living could do something to influence the Washington officials about the immediate needs of the Appalachians. Why not use money for community programs, which is what idle mountain people need—help teach how to build root cellars for storing vegetables, how to keep house, how to cook and eat for health, how to set up sawmills and construct

Homestead, and other homesteads, to attend the 1965 School of Living summer workshop, and in 1966 to volunteer work on a homestead in exchange for time to study, talk and make friends.

beautiful cabins, etc. This won't be easy, but I think it must be attempted, for we are about two centuries late in doing it. . . . A young Wellesley student has been down there in nursing service, and has written a good paper showing that the "welfare" they are getting doesn't really help, but demoralizes them and makes them feel useless.—E. Haswell, 211 E. 18th St., New York City

### Take Your Courage To the Woods

To the Editor:

We arrived here last year too late to put in crops; we suffered real privation during the last week of December, but a few people rendered necessary assistance to get us through the winter. My wife and I have completed a small book of children's poetry, now being printed; it depicts our rural life and I believe of interest to *Green Revolution* folks.

We are interested in getting an agricultural cooperative community going here. We invite people who want to work; we will make available a place to put up a cabin and we know how difficult things will be. Free-loaders we can do without. We will not examine their pocket-book, but hope they have vision and appreciation for building a good life for themselves and their children.

Those who merely like to come to the farm in the summer, putter around for a few weeks, sing songs around a campfire, take home the produce and then expound on the wonders of rural life are living only half a life, and exploiting others. I'd like to prevent the uninitiated gathering a bunch of romantic ideas about taking to the woods. It is extremely difficult, requires tremendous tenacity, physical and mental strength, and a dedication to an ideal such as one might find among the most devoutly religious.—Gary DeYoung, Cass Lake, Minn.

### Filing GR Material

To the Editor:

I like to refer to material in *Green Revolution* and often can't find what I want. Couldn't you change the format to an 8 page, say 9" x 12" size, with punched holes in the margin so we could file it in a ringed notebook? And departmentalize the items, so we could know just where to look for material of specific topics?—W. Earwood, New Lexington, Ohio.

(Note. Printing is expensive and changing format costs money—and more margin for holes, for instance, would reduce the amount of material we could include. Our present *Green Revolution* has been carefully designed to give us an attractive publication for the least cost. We have, at times, considered various ideas for changing it, and will probably sometime be able to make changes. Major changes, however, can easily result in substantial increases in cost. We fold GR by hand, at Lane's End, for instance, to save on cost.

Our readers, of course, handle the problem Mr. Earwood mentions in various ways. For one, why not have a card file, in which you have departments — Food, Gardening, Building, Animals, Health, etc.—and when you get your new *Green Revolution* (or other journals) you jot down the items by page and date on a card and file in your card file for quick location later?

Have you sent Mr. Earwood information about you and your homestead for the *Green Revolution* directory he is making up?—M.J.L.)

### Southwest Community

To the Editor:

Thanks to our good friend, Russel Jaque, for sending us your wonderful paper. We believe that the expressions in your journal are shared by many in our coun-

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try, and there has long been a need to bring these people together. It is indeed a shame that this universe, given freely to fulfill the needs of all, should now be in the hands of a few to satisfy their own greedy needs. We sincerely hope all of you wherever you live who understand a more natural way of life will help expose what is called living for what it really is, the death of a people.

We would like to hear from any of your readers who would be interested in forming a community in the southwest, dedicated to natural living and the fulfillment of life.—Mr. & Mrs. Gary Reimer, 215 E. Oak, Ojai, Calif.

### Report from Bryn Gweled

To the Editor:

Bryn Gweled Homesteads has certain cooperative aspects which may be of interest to you, however it is not an intentional community. At the quarter century mark, the 65 member families own the land in common, finance and care for the community center and sports facilities, take care of community business through the elected Board of Directors and a monthly general business meeting, and plan for other needs via committees. Norman and Betty Polster, 855 Woods Rd., Southampton, Pa., are interested in your work and would welcome any communications which you care to share with them.—M. D. Hurwitz, Chm., Public Relations., Southampton, Pa.

### Vermont Dissenters

To the Editor:

My wife and I try to lead as simple a life as people can who still want to hear good music, buy a few books and see an occasional play down-country (that's New York City for us Vermonters-by-self-adoption). We are hoping and planning to reach the self-sufficient stage by the time we reach retirement age.

That may not be the real way to do it, but at least not having to get out of our hill country back road to go to work will eliminate a large part of our need for cash for transportation. We already raise a good bit of our food, primarily green vegetables in summer and root crops to see us through the winter. We heat by wood, at a much lower cost than any form of central heating could equal. And our quiet, peaceful old 100-odd acres of Vermont woods and fields and

(continued on page 3)

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- ☐ I enclose \$3. (Renew) (Enter) my subscription to *The Green Revolution*.
- ☐ Here is \$6.15 for 1 year of *The Green Revolution* plus the book *Go Ahead and Live!* (You save \$1.)
- ☐ I am sending \$6 for a combination subscription to both *The Green Revolution* and *A Way Out*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_

## Russel Jaque To Publish *Ambrosia*

Those who know the attractive printing and the basic life concepts of Russel Jaque, author of *Mankind*, *Go Home*, will welcome his plans to publish his memoirs and stories in a hand-printed edition, titled *Ambrosia*. Among his friends urging him to include his autobiography is Kirpal Singh, spiritual master of Delhi, teacher and mentor of Jaque. To begin this project, Jaque needs silk-screen equipment and supplies in the amount of \$400, which he will make available for other uses later. Friends, fellow disciples, book patrons and correspondents may assist him by advancing the amount to cover the number of copies they will want at \$5 each. At age 66, Russel Jaque lives simply at Star Rte., Box 32, Tecate, Calif.